



MEDIA ADVISORY

Date: September 8, 2003

Contacts: Cathy Barnette, Alabama Coastal Foundation, 251-990-6002

Bryon Griffith, EPA Gulf of Mexico Program, 228-688-3726

Alabama Cypress Planting Receives 2003 Coastal America Spirit Award

WHAT: The Alabama Coastal Foundation Cypress Tree Planting Project will be presented the 2003 Coastal America Spirit Award. The Project involved planting thousands of Cypress trees throughout Alabama's coastal area to help enhance, restore and preserve the area's estuarine and coastal habitats.

WHO: Receiving awards: Alabama Coastal Foundation; Mobile Bay National Estuary Program; the Cities of Orange Beach, Daphne and Gulf Shores; Village Point Foundation; Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium; the Partners for Environmental Progress; and the Alabama Power Foundation.

Photo opportunities and interviews on site.

WHERE: In conjunction with Southeast Watershed Forum and Southern States Environmental Conference, Mississippi Coastal Coliseum and Convention Center, Biloxi, MS

WHEN: Tuesday, September 23, 2003

BACKGROUND:

The Coastal America Partnership created the awards program in 1997 in an effort to recognize outstanding efforts to protect, preserve and restore coastal resources. The Coastal America Spirit Award recognizes teams whose efforts demonstrate the Coastal America spirit of teamwork and are poised to address our challenging coastal issues but have not yet matured or are limited in scope.

The Habitat Restoration Committee of the Alabama Coastal Foundation is responsible for the creation of conservation projects to enhance, restore, and preserve our area's environmentally sensitive estuarine and coastal habitats. The Foundation held the 3rd Annual Cypress Tree Planting Project on Saturday, February 1, 2003. Over 125 volunteers showed up to plant over 3750 trees throughout Alabama's coastal area. The steering committee evaluated the program effectiveness of years 1 and 2 and acknowledged the need for more community ownership in the planting areas. In project follow up, their public works staff are tending to the trees and keeping a watchful eye on their growth.

TEAM MEMBERS:

Buzz Sierke, Alabama Coastal Foundation

Angela Browning, Alabama Coastal Foundation

Cathy Barnette, Alabama Coastal Foundation

Lee Yokel, Mobile Bay National Estuary Program

Phillip West, City of Orange Beach

Nell Gustavson, City of Daphne

Lisa Kennedy, City of Gulf Shores

LaDon Swann, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium

Fred Nation, Village Point Foundation

Bernie Fogarty, Alabama Power Foundation

Partners for Environmental Progress